

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-11 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 INT-08 SCI-06

TRSE-00 FEA-02 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 COME-00 AEC-11

STR-08 OIC-04 CEA-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 EPA-04 CEQ-02

DOTE-00 /247 W

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P R 242147Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2445

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG UN

SUBJ: SECRETARY GENERAL'S PRESS STATEMENT ON

ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: (A) USUN 242, (B) STATE 15406

1. BENNETT TALKED WITH HENNIG, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO
SYG, MORNING JANUARY 24 TO TELL HIM WE WERE HAVING TROUBLE
WITH STATEMENT ON ENERGY ISSUE AT SYG'S NOON PRESS BRIEF-
ING JANUARY 23 (REF B). BENNETT SAID PHRASEOLOGY OF STATE-
MENT GAVE IMPRESSION THAT UN CONFERENCE ON ENERGY ALREADY
ANNOUNCED AS A FACT AND MODALITIES NOW BEING WORKED OUT.
THIS WAS SO AT VARIANCE WITH WHAT HENNIG TOLD BENNETT RECENTLY
RE SYG'S DETERMINATION AVOID BEING BURNED ON ENERGY
ISSUE AS HE HAD BEEN ON TERRORISM AND WAS SO CONTRARY TO
WHAT SYG HIMSELF HAD SAID IN CONVERSATION WITH BENNETT
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TWO NIGHTS AGO (WHEN SYG HAD STRESSED SIZEABLE OPPOSITION

IN UN CORRIDORS TO FRENCH PROPOSAL BY SOVIETS, ALGERIANS AND OTHERS) THAT WE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF YESTERDAY'S PRESS STATEMENT. BENNETT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE UNDERSTOOD ECOSOC PRESIDENT KARHILO (FINLAND) WAS EMBARRASSED BY STATEMENT SINCE HE THOUGHT HE WAS CONSULTING INFORMALLY ON FRENCH PROPOSAL AND HAD BEEN TRYING TO PLAY MATTER IN LOW KEY.

2. HENNIG, REACTING WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE SINCERE CONCERN, EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER STATEMENT AND SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN IT. HE ASSERTED IT OBVIOUSLY WENT FURTHER THAN WHAT HE UNDERSTOOD SYG'S POSITION TO BE AND IT MUST BE THAT PHRASEOLOGY OF PRESS STATEMENT HAD BEEN BADLY ORGANIZED. HE WAS SURE THAT SYG HAD NOT REACHED DECISION IN FAVOR OF ENERGY CONFERENCE WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD BE A MATTER FOR MEMBER STATES TO DECIDE; CERTAINLY SYG WAS NOT PROMOTING ENERGY CONFERENCE.

3. BENNETT MADE POINTS REFTEL (B) AND MADE CLEAR U.S. NOT REPEAT NOT SUPPORTING CALLING NOW OF UN WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE. BENNETT STRESSED BUILDINGBLOCK APPROACH PREFERRED BY U.S. AND ARGUED THAT RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 11 CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS SHOULD BE AWAITED BEFORE ANY DECISION MADE RE SPECIAL SESSION OF ECOSOC. HENNIG LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM SECRETARY GENERAL OF CONVERSATION. HE REITERATED VIEW THAT PRESS STATEMENT WAS BADLY DRAFTED AND HAD PRESENTED MATTER IN MORE ADVANCED FRAMEWORK THAN SYG'S PRESENT POSITION.

4. SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH BENNETT TALKS WITH HENNIG, AMB FERGUSON INFORMED FINNS OF US POSITION FRENCH INITIATIVE REF B. BREITENSTEIN (FINNISH REP ECOSOC) INDICATED THAT KARHILO IN ADDITION TO COMMUNICATING WITH SYG HAD ALSO RAISED ISSUE OF PRESS RELEASE WITH KITTANI LONG SUSPECTED AS MAJOR POWER BEHIND MOVE TO INVOLVE UN IN ENERGY. ACCORDING TO BREITENSTEIN, KITTANI DENIED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF PRESS BRIEFING EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF ASSERTING HE HAD NO RECORD OF WHAT ACTUALLY WAS SAID. KITTANI DID INDICATE THAT A "CLARIFICATION" WOULD BE ISSUED AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING JAN 24 IN RESPONSE TO PLANTED QUESTION. AT CONFIDENTIAL

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NOON BRIEFING SYG SPOKESMAN ASSERTED HE HAD CARELESSLY USED LANGUAGE REGARDING CONSULTATION, MODLAIITIES AND THE LIKE. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION HE ASSERTED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED ON FRENCH INITIATIVE AND THAT NOT EVEN FORMAL CONSULTATIONS HAD COMMENCED BUT ONLY "PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS."

5. FERGUSON WILL BE MEETING WITH FRENCH EVENING JAN 24

FOR UPDATE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT FRENCH CALLED ON FINNISH MISSION LATE AFTERNOON 24TH BUT UNAWARE OF SUBSTANCE OF EXCHANGE. FERGUSON WILL ALSO BE MEETING WITH MOST OF EC-9 AND WILL USE OCCASION TO CONVEY US POSITION REFTEL B.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE WHOLESALE DISAVOWALS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR JAN 23 STATEMENT, WHETHER CARELESSLY ISSUED OR OTHERWISE, IT IS SO INCONSISTENT WITH WHAT SYG AND HENNIG HAVE TOLD US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND. AGAIN, DESPITE DISAVOWALS, THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN SECRETARIAT WHO HAVE FROM BEGINNING FAVORED FULL INVOLVEMENT OF UN IN ENERGY MATTERS. END SUMMARY

7. WE ASSUME IN LIGHT OF REF B THAT DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION IN CONCERTING WITH ALGERIANS TO BLOCK FRENCH INITIATIVE.
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